

Utility Interconnection Investigation

MPSC Case No. U-15113

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Interconnection Investigation

On October 24, 2006, the Commission issued an Order in Case No. U-15113 to:

- investigate the interconnection of independent power producers with a utility's system,
- identify any problems or deficiencies in the existing interconnection procedures,
- develop and implement remedies,
- set Jan 9, 2007 as date for public meeting, and
- direct MPSC Staff to file a report by Jan 31, 2007.

Interconnection Investigation

- Laker Schools interconnection information filed by Detroit Edison and Laker Schools
- Utility interconnection data and problems experienced
- All other interested persons were given an opportunity to file comments
- Public meeting on January 9, 2007
- Additional comment period & utility responses to staff questions

Staff Report on Interconnection

- Issued January 31, 2007
- Identified interconnection process problems and recommendations for improvements
- Many of the report recommendations are not controversial
- Report is under Commission consideration

General Recommendations

- Utilities to file interconnection reports every 6 months
- Utilities to provide applicant with written notification of receipt of application
- Utilities to provide written notification to applicant within 10 days of receipt of application
 - completeness,
 - possible rate changes,
 - all remaining activities that will be the responsibility of the applicant
- Knowledgeable utility interconnection project manager
- More public education
- Informal waiver process

Under 30 kW Generator Interconnection Recommendations

- Establish a workgroup to develop faster and less complex interconnection procedures for 10 kW and under interconnection projects.
- Seek a new consensus and report to the Commission within 90 days on a simplified approach for net metering for inverter based systems smaller than 10 kW.

30 kW and Larger Generator Interconnection Recommendations

- Establish a workgroup to study the following:
 - identify reasonable and achievable interconnection time deadlines;
 - propose a system for determining whether interconnection costs are reasonable, actual costs;
 - transmission provider consultation
 - power factor requirements
 - develop criteria for identification of areas of opportunity for distributed generation on each utility's distribution system.
- Pre-application meetings